

REMARKS

The following is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action mailed on May 21, 2004. Claims 1, 3-32, 33-55, 57 and 59-62 were examined. The Examiner rejected all of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious in view of Asente in combination with Crawford and under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious in view of Asente in combination with Kumar. In response, Applicant is amending independent claims 1, 32, 55 and 57 and has cancelled claims 7, 38 and 59-62.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner rejected pending claim 1 as being obvious in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,310,622 to Asente in combination with U.S. Patent No. 5,883,625 to Crawford and as being obvious in view of Asente in combination with U.S. Patent No. 5,982,383 to Kumar. In response, Applicant is amending claim 1 and, as the rejection might apply to the amended claim, respectfully traverses.

Claim 1, as amended, recites the limitations of generating grid parameter values based on spacing parameter values, generating a set of points based on the grid parameter values, and mapping the set of points to a defined constraint to establish locations of objects. Neither Asente, Crawford nor Kumar teaches or suggests these limitations. With respect to Asente, the Examiner acknowledges in the Office Action that Asente does not disclose anything about selecting a grid type and mapping the grid type onto a constraint. With respect to Crawford, the reference only teaches that a user may select a type of grid style and arrange objects inside a container based on the arrangement of cells of the selected grid style. Essentially, an object is placed in each cell of the selected grid. Crawford makes no mention whatsoever of the underlying mechanism(s) used to place the objects in the different cells of the selected grid type,

let alone teaching or suggesting the steps of generating grid parameter values, generating a set of points based on the grid parameter values, and mapping those points to a defined constraint to locate objects on or within the defined constraint. Further, Applicant respectfully disagrees that Crawford discloses these recited steps in the Abstract or in any part of columns 1-3, as indicated by the Examiner. With respect to Kumar, the reference suffers from the same deficiencies as Crawford. More specifically, Kumar only teaches that a user may choose a template for a graphics chart that has an associated, adjustable grid. Each such grid provides "placements" and "snap zones" that are used to locate and control the orientations of text and shapes placed within the grid. Similar to Crawford, Kumar makes no mention whatsoever of the underlying mechanism(s) used to place the objects in the different "placements" of the selected grid, let alone teaching or suggesting the steps of generating grid parameter values, generating a set of points based on the grid parameter values, and mapping those points to a defined constraint to locate objects on or within the defined constraint. Further, Applicant respectfully disagrees that Kumar discloses these recited steps in the Abstract or in any part of columns 1-2, as indicated by the Examiner.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant contends that Asente, Crawford and Kumar, either alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest each and every limitation of amended claim 1. Applicant therefore submits that amended claim 1 is in condition for allowance and requests that the §103(a) rejection of this claim be withdrawn. In addition, since claims 3-6 and 8-31 depend either directly or indirectly from allowable, amended claim 1, Applicant submits that these claims also are in condition for allowance.

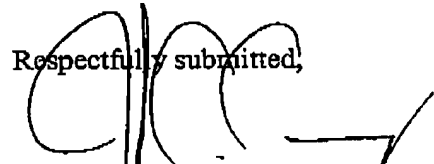
Claims 32, 55 and 57 have been amended to include limitations similar to those set forth above in conjunction with amended claim 1. Applicant therefore submits that amended claims 32, 55 and 57 are in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as amended claim 1. In

addition, since claims 34-37 and 39-54 depend either directly or indirectly from allowable, amended claim 32, Applicant submits that these claims also are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above remarks, Applicant believes that he has overcome all of the rejections and objections set forth in the Office Action mailed May 21, 2004 and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, please contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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